(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the COAI fears that the Monsoon Hangama Offer might influence the forthcoming decision of TDS Appellate Tribunal on the legality of WLL Mobility Services; and

(d) whether the operator owes to the DoT staggering sum of Rs. 9000 crore as unpaid licence fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has complained against Monsoon Hangama Offer of Private operator COAI has expressed fears that the Monsoon Hangama Offer may influence the forthcoming decision of Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

(d) No, Sir.

Disrupted Telecommunication system in Ranchi

†1931. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to negligence of the officers of Telecommunication Department, the communication system of Dakra (Ranchi) generally remains disrupted;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telephones of many Central Educational Institutions are also lying out of order since the last six months due to non-presence of officers/employees at the headquarters;

(c) by when the faulty telephones would be rectified; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by Government against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir. Communication system at Dakra is quite satisfactory.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Upgradation of Basic Telecom Structure in Rural Areas

1932. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural telephone services in the country are in shambles; and

(b) the action taken to upgrade the basic telecom structure in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. At present, rural telephone services in the country are working satisfactorily. However, some problems are faced in certain areas due to reasons such as: erratic power supply, inadequate road infrastructure in rural areas, law and order problem in States and natural calamities like floods, cyclones etc.

(b) Following steps are taken in a phased manner to further upgrade basic telecom services in rural areas:

(i) Rehabilitation/upgradation of external plant.

(ii) Replacement of long spans of overhead alignment by underground cables.

(iii) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments.

(iv) Introduction of modern technologies like Wireless in Local Loop, Time Division multiple Access/Point to Multi Point (TDMA/PMP), Satellite in rural areas.

(v) Replacement of existing battery sets by maintenance free battery sets and provision of generator sets to take care of long duration of power break down.

(vi) Computerisation of more and more fault repair centres.